



OLLI @ UTEP

On Campus
Miners Hall 209
(915) 747-6280



Your 2023 OLLI Advisory Board

Karen Fraser
Chair

Elizabeth Farrelly
Secretary

Jessica Arriola
Events

Tom Harding
Technology

Helen Schmid
*Membership
Community Advocacy*

Leanne von Mittenwald
Ex-officio

Sonya Villa-Saenz
EU Advisor

Lynn Provenzano
*Executive Director
Curriculum
Marketing*

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR | *Community*



Here we are again! The holidays are upon us and we are winding down our OLLI Fall Sessions while looking forward to Spring 2024. It has been a wild year of challenges, community, and, most of all, caring. OLLI members and Extended University partners have made this an exceptional year. The mindfulness that has evolved has made the OLLI community stronger. OLLI volunteers have added value to classes and administration. Moreover, members, current and new, have contributed to our OLLI's sustainability.

There is still more ahead of us. EACH ONE. REACH ONE is more important than ever before. Membership must continue to grow. The OLLI community has proven to be a very special place, not only at UTEP but in our hearts and minds. Let's build our community together. We'll keep finding ways to bring new and interesting topics and enjoyable times to you.

Thanks for being a part of our very special OLLI.
Wishing you the best of the Holidays!

Lynn Provenzano

A MESSAGE FROM THE ADVISORY BOARD CHAIR | *Cherish*



I am so pleased to have seen and interacted with many of you in person and via Zoom the past few months and look forward to celebrating our mutual membership in OLLI at our annual meeting December 12, 2023, at the First Baptist Church. I hope you will RSVP soon and plan to bring a friend as a potential new member.

Thank you for your support of OLLI and remember to cherish each other as fellow members of not only a vibrant organization but also a community of senior adults who share similar goals and ideals.

Happy Holidays to you all!

Sincerely,

Karen Fraser

EXTENDED UNIVERSITY (EU)

is UTEP's hub for online and other nontraditional academic programs, professional training and education, and community enrichment. EU strives to improve access to UTEP's outstanding educational opportunities for all who seek them out. EU's component units provide educational opportunities and services to support both nontraditional students and educators interested in new modes of teaching.

A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN | *Positive Turns*



Dear OLLI Members

This year, I read *The Good Life: Lessons from the World's Longest Scientific Study of Happiness*. It describes a study that started in 1938 and follows Harvard male sophomores and inner-city Boston boys through their lives, their wives' lives, and even their children's lives, to learn what makes them thrive.

The authors, Robert Waldinger, MD and Marc Shultz, PhD, begin the first chapter with a question: "If you had to make *one* choice, right now, to set yourself on the path to future health and happiness, what would it be?" While I might jokingly start with something like a beachside condo or an Audi e-tron GT (in galaxy blue, please), the book reminds us of what we already know. *Things* are not what lead us to a happy and fulfilling life. Rather, it's what they call the "Fourth R": relationships. "We are born with a need to connect to people," they tell us, and we need and have different friends at different times to help us thrive. Of course, that gives a reason to pause and consider the faces of friends we had when we were in grade school and in high school, in college or the military, when our children were little and grown, at work, and so on. What did these relationships contribute to our lives? What did our friendship or companionship bring to theirs?

Waldinger and Schultz's concluding chapter is entitled: "It's never too late to be happy." And they state—in italics—"it doesn't matter how old you are, where you are in the life cycle, whether you are married or not married, introverted or extroverted; everyone can make positive turns in their life." Being a part of the OLLI community is in large part a positive turn toward engaging in relationships built on a foundation of a love for learning. At the end of yet another year that zoomed by at break-neck speed, that's something to be thankful for, to celebrate, and be especially happy about.

Dr. Beth Brunk

OLLI | OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE

OUR VISION

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at the University of Texas at El Paso aspires to be a premier membership organization for adults over the age of fifty (50) in an aging demographic through continuing education and social integration - with an expanded reach - to positively enhance mature adult lives in the El Paso Border Region.

OUR MISSION

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) provides opportunities under the umbrella of the University of Texas at El Paso to enhance the enjoyment, meaning, and direction of all adults over the age of fifty (50); to stay connected; and to support their good health and wellness in an aging community through diverse course offerings in continuing education, social activities, volunteerism, intergenerational experiences, and any other special services.

OLLI is dedicated to providing service to the OLLI community and welcomes new members.

EACH ONE . REACH ONE ... Invite friends, colleagues, and relatives to join OLLI.

Enjoy feeding your curiosity together!

The Wellness from Within Workshops

-facilitated by Mónica E. Gómez- have been favorites among OLLI members who are discovering new insights through discussions, creative writing, reading aloud and more. Authors share their creative writings from Summer 2023 sessions.



Elizabeth Tractenberg

Emollient

“Emollient is such a strange word for me. I cannot seem to associate it with softener. Why is that? Perhaps it is a new word to my vocabulary or perhaps I never encountered it. Does it relate to something I encountered before, well no – otherwise it would not be so strange.”

Ripple

“I love to watch the ripple of the water outside my window. Sometimes the pond is so calm that you can see the houses reflected in the water or at night reflecting the lights. All of a sudden, a slight breeze or a bird flying across the pond creates a small ripple as it lands quietly on the water. Then the ripple disappears.

A strong wind, on the other hand, creates waves on the water, reminding me of the ocean waves and yet moments later, as the wind dies down, there is a ripple effect again with a light sound and then quiet.”

English Words: Aurora

“My favorite time is early morning when the world is still asleep and I have a chance to enjoy the solitude of the day. As I look out my window and watch the sun rise above the houses nearby, bright red as if the world was on fire. Yet at the same time, the day is just beginning and actually, it is still gray outside but just the tinge of red in the sky is beautiful.

The sound of ducks waking up, quaking as if they were bringing in the day. The silence that I so enjoy before the chaos of the day starts. My two big white dogs are silent, also enjoying this time of the day, their breathing is slow, soft and they know to continue to stay silent and motionless.

I love to slowly let the world in either by watching the news on the phone or reading a book, slowly turning the pages. I do not want to let these moments go as I love the silence and the quiet world just waking up. I slowly rise, get a cup of coffee, crawl back into my still warm bed and continue to enjoy the silence interrupted by the quacks of the ducks asking to be fed.”



Andres M. Mendoza

Murmurous

“My internal song, a collection of murmurous sounds and words. These sounds and words surround me and stay with me the whole day. They betray my innermost feelings, the essence I sometimes want to hide or ignore. They somehow tell a story, a story about me and what I am feeling.

But these murmurous sounds and words are not always heard by others. They reserve themselves for only my attention and introspection.”



Lettie Mendez

Getting There

“Start by taking a wrong turn, as all really interesting trips begin. Continue to surprise people along the way as you pop up in unexpected places doing unusual things in a better than average manner. Turn the beauty of your weirdness into the perfect cup of tea for yourself and allow it to insulate you from the harsher aspects of the journey. Those who matter will gladly partake with you and add joy to the journey, embracing every adventure. Leave behind laughable limitations about where you can wander. And, never stop feeling wonder about all the wonderful, crazy, cracked and meandering steps along the way.”

More creative writing from the workshop series by *Mónica E. Gómez*
 presented by *Osher Lifelong Learning Institute and the Rio Grande Cancer Foundation*

Mónica Gómez

Five Senses 1

jamoncillo, canela y leche,
 cinnamon fusion of warm brown sugar
 and rich milk in clear cellophane wrapper
 single pecan half on top

smooth, glossy cajeta by the spoonful
 pry open tiny wooden container
 and devour the fragile wafer
 of white foam on top

biznaga, acitrón, cactus candy
 delicate white sugar crust
 so perfectly firm it's glistening
 translucent flesh holds teeth marks

mazapan, patties of peanut powder
 chunks calve off the whole into my mouth
 melt on my tongue, mix with saliva,
 trickle down my throat, so sweetly satisfying

Five Senses 2

I straddle a round back of prickly white hair
 legs gripping his solid rolling belly
 hooves crunch and plod through soft soil

between his perked ears, the mountains
 bob blue and huge on the horizon
 his hay-sweet smell warms me in the chill

bareback, my gelding and I go calmly
 round and round the arena, both bored,
 but today it's cold and we're tired, so

with only a halter on his beautiful head
 we enjoy the mindless movement
 over level, familiar ground
 his manners engaged

but if we pass through the arena gate
 he'll overwhelm my hands on
 his looped lead rope and charge
 back to the alfalfa waiting in his corral

Manuel Dieguez

Five Senses 1

"If you ask me if the smell of cigarette
 smoke bothers me, not at all. I smoked
 occasionally off and on throughout my life. I
 don't hate cigarette smoke because it reminds
 me of when I used to cuddle in my father's
 armpits when he watched television and I got in
 the bed and cuddled next to him. I was about 5
 years old. I felt protected and the smell of him
 smoking or having smoked in the room was
 pleasant to me, even now. It is one of many
 ways I remember my father."

Five Senses 2

"I bought Givenchy perfume because my
 uncles gave my brother and me shirts that were
 like new and were very good and modern styled.
 Those shirts still smelled of extravagant
 perfume, a musky smell. We wore them for the
 Disco or Church. The shirts were well-tailored
 and of good brands like Pierre Cardin, Arrow
 and others, good colors and cloth texture. Since
 my uncles were kind of short and slender, the
 shirts fit us when we were 16 years old, and
 were very in style. I remember I liked a gray
 shiny one and a dark pink short-sleeved one. We
 felt very handsome and they were still loaded
 with Givenchy perfume."

*Wellness from Within Ongoing Workshops
 Series are sponsored by the
 Rio Grande Cancer Foundation.*



THE OLLI CONNECTION | OSHER National Resource Center

BY THE NUMBERS:

OLLI Memberships in the network range from less than 600 to more than 1800 persons over the age of 50. There are 18,743 volunteers across the OLLI network (U.S. Coast to Coast and Hawaii). Only 22% of OLLI's have all-inclusive fees. Others have ala carte class fees. OLLI at UTEP has inclusive fees.

125

Osher Institutes

276

Cities/Towns

116,599

Members

OSHER INSTITUTES CONFERENCE | October 16 -18 | San Diego

At this three-day invitational conference Osher Institute staff and volunteer leaders from around the country engaged in lively discussions and shared experiences and ideas on how to manage, develop, and expand OLLI programs. Advisory Board Chair, Karen Fraser and Executive Director, Lynn Provenzano attended the conference.



OLLI at UTEP is honored to be one of the 28 OLLIs selected for the NRC's OSHER ONLINE program of national courses. New Spring opportunities begin in January.

Osher Online
in collaboration with Northwestern University
School of Professional Studies

12 New Osher Online courses starting in January! Registration opens December 15. Course fees apply.

www.utep.edu/olli.

- Ruth Bader Ginsberg
- Dream Jobs: My Career in Sports
- The Jewish Holidays: A Primer
- Themes in Philosophy, Part 2
- Coming to Terms with the Holocaust
- Chemistry in the Real World
- Native Ground: Indigenous Communities and Colonization Before 1900
- Fake News: Keys to Ethical and Impactful Journalism
- Made in America: The History, Mission, and Vision of the Public Library
- Golden Mysteries: An exploration of Mystery Novels from the 1920s - 1940s
- Nero Wolfe: The Best of America's Armchair Detectives
- Today's Technology: How does it work?

OLLI VOLUNTEERS | Paving the Way

OLLI Volunteers participated in many events and projects that continue to benefit OLLI members and contribute to the sustainability and growth of OLLI's programming and membership. Take a look at these accomplishments.

LATE SUMMER & FALL EVENTS & PROJECTS

Connecting the Community

Special Registration Open House | First Baptist Church | August 2023
Fall Catalog Distribution (ongoing)
El Paso Giving Day | October 2023
UTEP Homecoming | October 2023

Public Fairs

City of El Paso Employee Education Fair | July 2023
Aging to Perfection Expo | August 2023
Western Hills Fall Fair | October 2023

Special OLLI Events

Dressing Ourselves Mixer | Centennial Museum | July 2023
hOLLiween | October 2023
Dia de los Muertos | November 2023
Pickleball Tournament | November 2023
OLLI Annual Membership Meeting | First Baptist Church | December 2023

OFFICE & HOST SUPPORT

Thanks to those give their time to support classrooms and/or for being prepared for member calls and service.

COMMITTEES

OLLI members are welcome to join committees that are committed to the sustainability, growth and social aspects of the OLLI@UTEP community.

Consider being an
Advisory Board Member.

Thanks to their dedication - committee members are hands that help to create awareness and recognition of our OLLI program.

Thanks to all Volunteers! You are the impactful internal and external network of our community.

*Do you need a gift
for someone special?*

**Give the Gift
of OLLI**

**Gift an OLLI Membership
introducing your someone
special to the Spring and
Summer semesters.**



. BIRTHDAYS . ANNIVERSARIES .
. FRIENDSHIPS . JUST BECAUSE .

WE LOVE OUR OLLI!

SHARE & ENHANCE THE MEANING
OF LIFE, LEARNING, AND
CURIOSITY

Call the OLLI office for details regarding gift certificates.
EACH ONE > REACH ONE
915-747-6280

SUPPORT | Volunteer Instructors, Lecturers, Partners & Collaborators

We appreciate our OLLI Instructors, guest speakers and collaborators!

Several instructors and lecturers offered their time as volunteers in support of OLLI's mission during the Fall 2023 term. Our collaborators work with UTEP's Center for Community Engagement (CCE).

FALL 2023

Instructors

Adair Margo
 Stephen Ledesma
 Jean-Claude Linossi
 Marie Livingston
 Alfred Reeves
 Silvia Portillo-Koch
 Linda Shubeck
 David Varela
 Eric Kappus
 Dr. Pablo Estrada

UTEP Intergenerational Projects

Soyean Lee
 Tafari Nugent

Guest Speakers

Carolina Valencia
 Cecelia Fierro
 Patricia Lara
 Ellen Chavez
 Bob Warach
 Carol Bohle, RGCF
 Dianne Medina, RGCF
 Cindi Martinez, RGCF

OLLI EAST

OLLI has a new partner!
Special thanks
to YALC Director, Cindy Sizemore
Ysleta Adult Learning Center

OLLI Film Fest East
launched in early Fall 2023 to expand OLLI
programming to El Paso's east side in
an easy-to reach location at
121 Padres Avenue
with free parking.

The Ysleta Adult Learning Center hosted film classes led by Leanne von Mittenwald, Catherine Dickason, and Aurolyn Luykx in a pilot program.

OLLI East | Spring 2024
 More offers in Spring Session One and Two!
 John Grisham Films
 The Cuisines of South America
 Elvis Presley: Man, Musician and Actor
 Explore and Learn in the World of basic Art
 Sticks and Stones: Unethical Journalism in Film

FALL 2023 | Club Facilitators

Philip Anderson	Silvia Portillo Koch	Marie Livingston	Stan Deming
Phyllis Price	Janet Dand	Leanne von Mittenwald	Ben Avalos
Fred Eiland	Bob Jacobs	Catherine Dickason	Don Smelser

FALL 2023 | Partners & Research

Rio Grande Cancer Foundation
 Carolina Valencia, Clinical Assistant Professor, UTEP Rehabilitation Services
 Cecelia Fierro, Clinical Assistant Professor, UTEP Occupational Therapy
 Alvaro Gurovich, Associate Professor, UTEP Physical Therapy
 Patricia Lara, Clinical Associate Professor, Speech Language Pathology



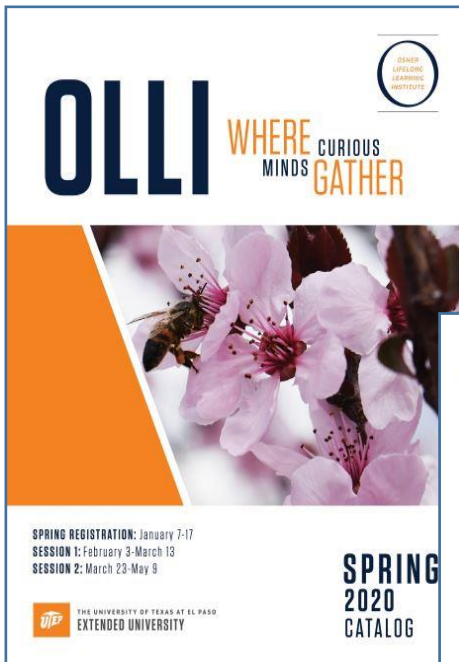
The Many Moving Parts of the OLLI Catalog Extended University's Marketing Team

The OLLI staff and Curriculum Committee work together to bring courses, lectures and tours to OLLI members by building a complex puzzle of courses and schedules. Then, all of this content is delivered into the creative hands of our Extended University partners, the EU Marketing Team who imagine all of the possibilities for a page-turning catalog. It's a monumental project!

The EU Marketing team has been working with OLLI catalogs, postcards, and promotional materials since Spring 2020. Thanks to Arathi, Claudia, and Kimberly!



Arathi Kylasam
EU Marketing Director



Claudia Cornejo
EU Marketing Coordinator



Kimberly Guerrero
EU Marketing Coordinator

“Rio Grande”

Catalog front cover adapted from a photo by Marie Livingston

Spring 2024 Catalog

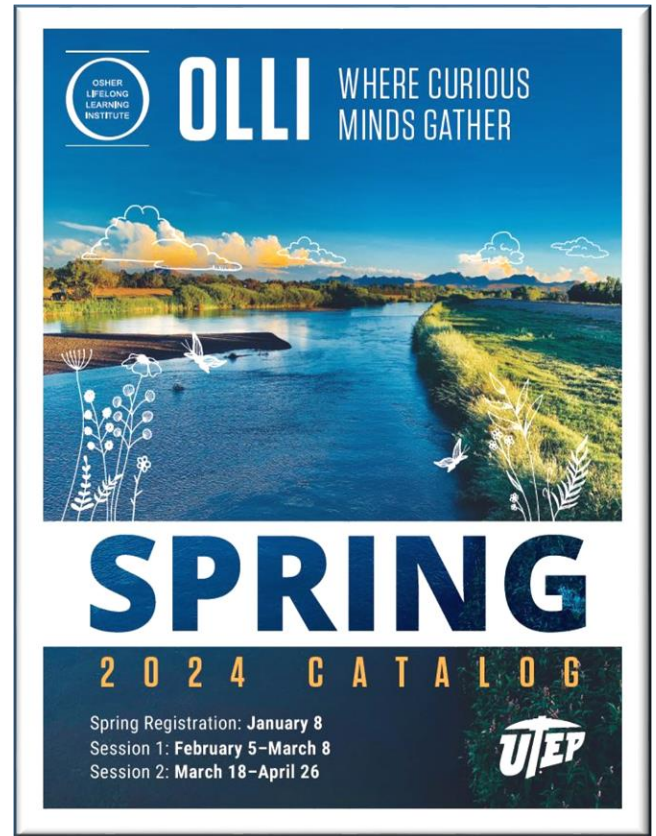
Landing in mailboxes in mid-December.

REGISTRATION EVENT

Tuesday, January 9 | 10am – 3pm
OLLI Lounge | UTEP Miners Hall 209

New for Spring

- OLLI EAST: Films and More
- More Pickleball Club activities
- El Paso History Tours: Progress in the Southwest
- El Paso Natural History Tours: Craters, Quakes and More
- Expanded Lecture Series:
 - Life, the Universe, and Everything
 - Law for the Layman
 - Senior Empowerment
 - Healthy Aging: Your Body, Heart, and Brain
- Intergenerational Opportunities
 - Brainstorm: Seniors with Seniors
 - Global tech Event
- 12 NEW OSHER ONLINE courses



Save the Dates!

December 12 | 11AM – 1:30PM | Annual Membership Meeting

First Baptist Church – Check your mail for the invitation.

Lunch - Free Parking - Door Prizes - Annual Updates

December 15 | OSHER ONLINE Registration opens

Register online, by mail, or make an appointment to meet in-person.

January 8 | OLLI Spring Registration officially opens

Register online, by mail, or make an appointment to meet in-person.

January 9 | 10AM – 3PM | OLLI Spring Registration Event

OLLI Lounge | UTEP Miners Hall 209 | Tapas and Door Prize

January 31 | 1:30PM – 3PM | ZOOM IN: Practice with Fun

February 5 | Spring classes begin

February 13 | 10:30AM- 12PM | Valentine’s Tour of El Paso’s Plaza Theatre

EACH ONE. REACH ONE Bring a new member to OLLI. Receive a \$45 credit toward your registration.

UTEP InSPIRE

OLLI's intergenerational collaborations have become inspirational for UTEP faculty and staff. The **Intergenerational User Experience, Community-Engaged Design, and Collaborative-Participatory Paradigms for Student Success** presentation with UTEP Instructor Dr. Soyeon Lee was accepted for the recent UTEP InSPIRE conference where faculty and staff were invited to listen and learn about the inspiring successes of programs and projects. Dr. Soyeon Lee presented a compelling argument for intergenerational collaboration. Lynn Provenzano, OLLI Executive Director, and Margie Brickey, OLLI Office Coordinator, represented OLLI in this presentation.



Dr. Soyeon Lee:

*We present collaborative-participatory strategies in building interdepartmental partnerships between a UTEP technical writing course and the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI). We adopted a community-centered, participatory, and inclusive paradigm to maximize student success, which can mutually benefit UTEP communities and senior adult communities outside the campus. By using a community-engaged design paradigm, students of RWS 3359 Technical Writing, a Community-Engaged Leadership (CEL) designated course, with a focus on community engagement and social responsibility, in alignment with the UTEP Edge Experiences and Advantages, collaborated with students of OLLI to create an Intergenerational User Experience project, titled “**OLLI Meets Technology and the Intergenerational UX Project.**”*

This course guided students to be UX researchers and designers navigating how senior user communities use a product or service of the partnered client organization. OLLI students were invited to become part of this CEL course project to share their user experiences and co-navigate UX research. The primary goal was for Technical Writing students and OLLI students to develop human-centered and community-engaged design in collaboration in products, services, and systems specifically for OLLI and for the elderly community outside the campus...

Research Participation: Collaboration Continues

OLLI members have been invited to participate in UTEP research projects pertaining to health and wellness since Fall 2022. Many of the researchers and their teams have presented to OLLI members in recent lecture series. Several studies are still open and OLLI members are welcome to participate in discovering how to ease the journey of aging. More information on these studies is available at the OLLI office.

- **Validity of Passive Leg Movements as Assessment of the Resistance Vasculature Function**
Dr. Alvaro Gurovich: agurovich@utep.edu Alejandro Sanchez: arsanchez16@miners.utep.edu
- **The Effects of Mild Electrical Stimulation to the Ear on Knee Pain**
Kosaku, Aoyagi PT, PhD: kaoyagi@utep.edu
- **Can we assess your pain experience?**
Carolina Valencia, PhD: cvalencia4@utep.edu
- **The Effect of Involuntary Muscle Stimulation of Blood Sugar Control and Metabolic Health**
Miner Lab Clinical Trials: minerlab@utep.edu

OLLI Members Continue to Fight Student Food and Housing Insecurities



The UTEP Food Pantry shelves were a bit bare and FHAR (Foster, Homeless, Adopted, Resources) reached out for donations.

Again, OLLI members contributed by dropping off food and supplies to the OLLI lounge. The Pickleball Club held a tournament with food donations as the tournament fee.



Organizers and students are grateful!

KAREN FRASER, Chair and Volunteer Coordination



“Volunteers have been busy since May 2023 as office supporters, UTEP Homecoming ambassadors, OLLI class hosts and instructors, representatives of OLLI at community events and contributors on OLLI committees.

My special thanks go to: Jamie Ackerman, Jessica Arriola, Jill Boyea, Elvia Contreras, Lily Dueñas, Fred Eiland, Elizabeth Farrelly, Michael Faulkner, Monica Gomez, Tom Harding, Mary Harris, Liz Highsmith, Maureen Keton, Marie Livingston, Irene Medina, Andy Mendoza, Henry Ocegueda, Irma Ocegueda,

Helen Schmid, John Schmid, Linda Shubeck, Don Smelser, John Walker, Bob Warach, Cristina Valdez, and Leanne von Mittenwald.

I again invite you to join our volunteer group of 55+ and help with the December annual member meeting and activities beginning January 2024. I also welcome your call and suggestions for improving and adding to our efforts.”

Karen Fraser
(915) 747-6280
karenf2@yahoo.com

Volunteer Committee Members: Jill Boyea, Lily Dueñas, Karen Fraser (Chair), Tom Harding, Liz Highsmith, Irene Medina, Don Smelser and Leanne von Mittenwald (ad hoc), and Karen Fraser (chair)

ELIZABETH FARRELLY, Secretary



“I have been Secretary for the OLLI Advisory Board on the Board since November 2022. Here a couple of the things I have been trying to do:

- 1) Recruit new OLLI members.
- 2) Encourage former Members to review new catalogs and return to classes
- 3) Volunteer for various activities sponsored by OLLI.

I have these as my goals and will continue to promote OLLI whenever possible.”

HELEN SCHMID, Membership and Community Advocacy Chair



“The last two semesters has been a roller coaster ride when it comes to membership for our OLLI program. As a funded educational organization, we have enrollment requirements that need to be met to continue to receive an endowment. Last year at the beginning of fall semester, we were **not where** we needed to be **but have added 92 new members since**. However, despite the new 2023 fall enrollees, we are short of the required participants.

The membership committee works hard at getting catalogs out in the community and has taken part in several public expos and fall festivals in an effect to bring our attendance up so that we are eligible to receive endowment.

We need your help! If each one of us recruits one person, our goal will be met.”

Membership Committee: Luis Castillo, Suzie Bissell-Currey, Michael Faulkner, Mary Harris, Betty Kennedy, Susan Sobin, Waynene Spradlin, Devon Wall (ad hoc), Helen Schmid (Chair),

JESSICA ARRIOLA, Events Chair



“What a post COVID whirlwind year for OLLI and everything Events! Last April, Events held a lunch at The Mad Hatter on Mesa for OLLI volunteers. Then last June, the Events Committee held a fantastic tea and sandwich luncheon at The Centennial Museum and Chihuahuan Desert Gardens for an exhibit called “Dressing Ourselves”. In October, the Events committee held a hOLLlween party that included a costume contest then held a very festive and delicious lunch for Dias de Los Muertos on November 3rd.

The Events Committee was also busy with lots of fun marketing around the city. From a fantastic Health and Wellness Fair at Queen of Peace Church to the Aging to Perfection Expo held at The El Paso Civic Center to providing OLLI information to the Education Employees of The City of El Paso at The El Paso Art Museum to marketing for OLLI at the Western Hills Fall Festival.

Bringing awareness to OLLI is very important, but appreciating, thanking and recognizing the OLLI community is even more important to the Events Committee. The future holds many promising and exciting events for OLLI members, volunteers, students and its family.

Happy Holidays!!!”

Events Committee: Jessica Arriola (chair)

Ad hoc participants: Maggie Jackson, Susie Bissell-Currey, Helen Schmid, Elizabeth Farrelly, and Margie Brickey (staff)

TOM HARDING, Technology Chair



Another year ends at OLLI and what a great year it was.

This past year OLLI Director Provenzano initiated a technology program which brought UTEP students to OLLI to assist OLLI members with technology issues related to phones, computers, or iPads. This initiative was a huge success with many OLLI members stopping by for assistance. Director Provenzano will be looking to replicate this success in the coming year so please keep an eye out for the announcement regarding this popular offering.

We had a few technical issues throughout the year but resolved many of them.

Director Provenzano was also able to secure the periodic use of classroom 207, just down the hall from the OLLI office. This classroom is equipped with high quality audio and visual equipment.

Advisory Board Director, Karen Fraser and I anticipate conducting a “hosting” training class during the first part of the year. We encourage everyone to consider joining the OLLI Hosting Team. It is a great way to meet new people, experience new subjects and give back to the OLLI community.

OLLI works hard to ensure you have an enjoyable experience as a part of this unique organization. Fully immerse yourself in this program; you won’t regret it. Also, do not hesitate to reach out to the OLLI office with any ideas or concerns you have.

Happy Holidays to everyone.

Technology Committee: Karen Fraser, Joe Miller (staff), and Tom Harding (Chair)

LYNN PROVENZANO, Executive Director, Marketing & Curriculum Chairs... and a note on Finance



“The past few months have been filled with challenges and opportunities that remind us to “stay the course” in building our membership, providing services, and maintaining the integrity of our OLLI programming with engaging offers. The Osher National Conference gave us new insights into the new normals faced by many of the OLLIs in the national network. It was also my pleasure to be a presenter in the well-received Mindful Leadership breakout session at this conference. I presented with Scott Bishop of OLLI at Auburn University and Cassandra Vieten, Director for the Center for Mindfulness at the University of San Diego. We are fortunate to have the resources provided by the Osher National Resource Center to support us. We are also most fortunate to have our own OLLI community as a stronghold for living and learning. Thanks for being a part of OLLI at UTEP!

The Marketing Committee has spent these past few months seeking new avenues to create awareness for OLLI in the El Paso community at large. Our social media can use some work. Yet, we have been on the radio, on TV, and in magazine articles. Catalog distribution is targeted and handled exceptionally well. The committee looks for opportunities where our reach will draw in new and returning members to support our growth and sustainability.

The Curriculum Committee has wrapped up the Spring 2024 program of courses, lectures, and tours. The brainstorming process for Summer and Fall has already begun. The creativity involved in making our OLLI programming great comes from open discussions regarding the possibilities within our OLLI as well as in the community. Of course, any feedback received from OLLI members is welcomed and considered.

On a financial note... OLLI relies on memberships, registration fee, and donations to supplement the funding from our Osher endowment. We do our best to keep expenses at a minimum but there is a cost to sustaining our administrative needs and programming. Sponsorships from the community would be of great assistance to our OLLI. If you know of anyone we should contact, please let us know.

Marketing Committee: Mary Ann Snider, Monica Gomez, Beth Ford, Ira Dodge, and Lynn Provenzano (chair)

Curriculum Committee: Marie Livingston, Ruth Bassett, Leanne von Mittenwald, Linda Shubeck, Bob Warach, and Lynn Provenzano (chair)

Finance: Lynn Provenzano and Sonya Villa-Saenz

LEANNE VON MITTENWALD, Ex-officio Advisor



“My tenure as OLLI Advisory Board Advisor comes to an end this month, but I will continue to serve on the Curriculum Committee and as an instructor, student, and volunteer. I want to thank the OLLI Advisory Board, the administration and staff of OLLI, and all of the wonderful members and volunteers for all of the support and guidance I received this year. I hope you all have a wonderful holiday with family and friends! I look forward to seeing you again in 2024!”

SONYA VILLA-SAENZ, Extended University Advisor



“On behalf of Extended University, I would like to extend my utmost gratitude to you and your dedication to the OLLI Program. I deeply appreciate every member for showing relentless effort to further grow OLLI. Each member's exceptional efforts have propelled us forward with their commitment, resilience, and innovative thinking. Thank you for your unwavering desire to continue to learn.”

Are you interested in what is happening at OLLI? **Consider joining the Advisory Board.**
Contact Karen Fraser. olli@utep.edu

Highlights | ON THE PLATE

The OLLI staff has been steadily making connections, training, and improving processes in the office to better serve our OLLI community. Here is a quick look at what is on the office plate:

Ongoing

Membership Recovery
Registrations and Attendance
Member Inquiries and Services
Course and Instructor Communications
Class Hosting and Troubleshooting
Aceware Data Entry
Compliance and Administrative Responsibilities
Administrative Trainings

Special Projects

OSHER ONLINE Course Administration
Standard Operating Procedure Documentation
UTEP Research Project Coordination

The OLLI staff has been trained and certified in CPR and First Aid by the American Heart Association.

UPDATE: The OLLI Office has a new phone system integrated with Microsoft Teams. This system was implemented across the UTEP campus. Contact the OLLI office through the main number: 915-747-6280

Highlights | FROM THE STAFF

MARGIE BRICKEY, OLLI Office Coordinator



“Following up with OLLI students and instructors to note new classes, changes or fix issues is satisfying. I also thoroughly enjoy my role as the official OLLI Welcome Wagon of one. It is one of my favorite tasks! Another task I love to do is create fliers and invitations to encourage members to attend our special events. I am looking forward to what new adventures 2024 has in store for us as we expand our creativity and deepen our knowledge. I wish you Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year!”

Reach out to Margie if you are interested in volunteering or for any questions or concerns you may have at mbrickey@utep.edu or at 915-747-6280

JOE MILLER, OLLI Administrative Assistant



“This past year has been quite a roller coaster and I’m so glad you have all welcomed me into this family. I’ve embraced the role of ‘that weird nephew that can fix problems’ and have very much enjoyed the interactions that have followed. I wish everyone a happy holiday season and I look forward to what 2024 will bring us.”

Reach out to Joe with questions or concerns you may have at jbmill@utep.edu or at 915-747-6280

www.utep.edu/olli

olli@utep.edu

OLLI-UTEP

